

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name of the State/U.T.</i>	<i>Branch Post Offices</i>	<i>Sub-Post Offices</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>
19.	North-East	10	Nil
	Tripura	10	Nil
	Mizoram	8	Nil
	Manipur	18	Nil
	Nagaland	9	Nil
	Arunachal Pradesh	11	1
	Meghalaya	5	Nil
Total:		1028	31

* Figures indicate sanctions issued for opening of post offices.

[*Translation*]

Marble Stone in Rajasthan

4103. SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA:

Will the Minister MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the demand of Marble Stone is increasing in the country and abroad; and

(b) if so, the places in various states where marble stone is found?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Marble deposits of Economic Importance are reported from Nagaur, Udaipur, Banswara, Chittorgarh, Sirohi, Dungarpur, Ajmer, Bundi, Bhilwara, Jaipur, Sikar, Pali, Jaisalmer and Alwar Districts of Rajasthan, Banaskantha, Baroda, Bharuch, Kutch and Panchamanals Districts of Gujarat, Pithoragarh and Mirzapur Districts of Uttar Pradesh, Betul, Chindwara, Dhar, Jabalpur, Morena, Narsingpur and Sindhi districts of Madhya Pradesh, Palamau distt. of Bihar, Guntar, Khammam and Vishakhapatnam Districts of

Andhra Pradesh, Mohindergarh Distt. of Haryana, Gulbarag Distt. of Karnataka, Jalpaiguri Puralia and Bankura Distt. of West Bengal

[*Engl/ish*]

Electronic Exchanges in West Bengal

4104. DR. ASIM BALA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to partly or fully privatise telecom industry;

(b) whether the International Monetary Fund conditionalities involve such a term;

(c) the total number of telephone lines planned in West Bengal during the Eighth Plan period; and

(d) the number of Electronic exchanges functioning in West Bengal and East Zone presently and the number of exchanges proposed to be set up during Eighth Plan period?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) No, Sir. Ac-

cording to the New Industrial Policy, both public and private sector are permitted in the Telecom Industry.

(b) No such term has been received by this Ministry from International Monetary Fund;

(c) Draft 8th Plan proposal envisage addition of around 1.80 lakh New Telephone lines in West Bengal during the 8th Plan period.

(d) As on 31.3.91, 369 electronic exchanges were functioning in East Zone (comprising of Orissa Circle, West Bengal Circle/North East circle, Bihar circle and Calcutta Metros district) including 63 electronic exchanges in West Bengal. As regards the number of exchanges proposed for the 8th plan, these have not been firmed up pending finalisation of 8th Five Year Plan.

Agreement Between Orissa Government and Electric Company, USA for Setting Thermal Plant

4105. SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY:
SHRI SRIBALLAV PANE-GRAHI:

Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between the Government of Orissa and the Southern Electric Company, USA for Setting up 1500 MW Thermal Plant in IB Valley near Talchar; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An MOU between the U.S. based Company namely M/s Southern Electric International Inc., USA and the Govt. of Orissa has since been signed on 13.12. 1991 by which the Govt. of Orissa proposes to arrange for the private construction, ownership and operation of the 2x210 MW electric power generation stations currently under construction at the IB Valley site in Orissa, the 2x210 MW electric power generation stations approved for construction at the IB Valley site, and the 3 x 500 MW electric power generation stations proposed to be built at the IB Valley site.

Metering of Local Calls

4106. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government have decided to meter local calls in areas covered by MTNL;

(b) whether there has been any opposition to the proposed scheme from urban subscribers;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have decided to postpone the implementation of the said scheme;

(e) the additional revenue expected by adopting this measure; and

(f) the degree of decongestion of exchanges at busy hours?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) The proposal to introduce time metering of local calls is under the consideration of the Government.